



Summary of Changes from Existing Water Conservation Ordinance

Sections 1 Purpose and Intent

The following language is being added.

Bernalillo County public policy is to encourage, support and protect xeriscaping, efficient irrigation systems, and water conservation by property owners and lessees. Restrictive covenants which require turf grass or other high water use plants, or otherwise restrict, limit or increase the cost for xeriscaping, efficient irrigation systems or water conservation by property owners or lessees in any manner shall be considered contrary to public policy.

Sections 2-5

No Changes.

Section 6 Definitions

The definition of New Development has been expanded to include remodels and additions. Other definitions have been added, deleted or modified as needed.

Sections 7-8

No Changes.

Section 9 Design and Construction Regulations for New Development.

Section 9 is being deleted and replaced with new requirements. Summary of the new requirements is below.

New Single Family Residential and Multifamily up to 8 Units (Small Multi Family)

- Applicants for Single Family Residential and Small Multi Family building permits shall now choose between three options.
 - Option 1. Bernalillo County Water Conservation Worksheet. If this option is chosen, applicants shall complete a worksheet verifying that the water fixtures and

appliances they are installing during construction will reduce water use by 20% compared to the 2006 Uniform Plumbing Code.

- Option 2. Bronze Level Certification by Build Green New Mexico (BGNM). New residential development must achieve a minimum of Bronze Level Certification by Build Green New Mexico.
- Option 3. Requires all EPA Watersense Labeled fixtures and Energy Star appliances if the appliances are installed by the contractor.
- All new remodels and additions shall now use EPA water sense labeled fixtures for any new plumbing fixture installed.

New Commercial, Institutional and Multifamily greater than 8 Units (Large Multi Family)

- All New Commercial, Institutional and Large Multifamily development must reduce their indoor water use by 20% by using plumbing fixture more efficient than those required by the 2006 Uniform Plumbing Code.
- All New Commercial, Institutional and Large Multifamily development greater than 1 acre shall complete water conservation options for outdoor use. New Commercial, Institutional and Large Multifamily development shall choose 3 of the Following 7 outdoor options, with at least one from the first 3. After January 1st, 2016, 4 of the Following 7 options shall be completed.
 1. 25% of Landscape Area shall be Precipitation Only Plants.
 2. Water Harvesting shall occur on 25% of the Landscape Area.
 3. Utility provide non-potable water Source shall be used for all irrigation.
 4. A Smart Irrigation Controller shall be used.
 5. A Soil Amendment Program shall be included.
 6. Non-Potable Water shall be Stored for Irrigation (cistern for rainwater or graywater)
 7. An Exterior Management Plan shall be developed.
- All New Commercial, Institutional, and Large Multifamily development less than 1 acre shall follow the options for larger commercial above or shall have all low-water use plants, have no spray irrigation and use a Smart Irrigation Controller.
- All non-residential remodels and additions shall use EPA water sense labeled fixtures for any new plumbing fixture installed. Any remodel which would affect more than 50% of the existing plumbing fixtures or increase the floor area of the existing building by more than 50% of the existing square footage shall use EPA water sense labeled plumbing fixtures for all new fixtures installed and shall replace any existing fixtures using EPA Watersense labeled fixtures.

Restrictions on Landscape Planting

- Residential and Commercial development would be limited to 10% high water use plants in the landscape area. Currently the limit is 20% high water use plants.